United Nations A/70/126

General Assembly

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2 July 2015

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Seventieth session
Items 124 and 125 of the preliminary list*

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Note verbale dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has the honour to forward herewith to the General Assembly the text (in English and French) of the document entitled "Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs", adopted by the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Hanoi on 31 March 2015 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations kindly requests the Office of the Secretary-General to circulate the present note verbale and its annex as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under items 124 and 125 of the preliminary list.

* A/70/50.

15-11169 (E) 140715

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

The Committee held three sittings under the chairmanship of its Vice-President, Mr. El Hassan Al Amin (Sudan).

Sitting 1: Interactive debate to mark the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations

Keynote speaker: Mr. L. Montiel, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Discussants: Ms. B. Bishop, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Australia; Mr. M. Tommasoli, Permanent Observer of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance at the United Nations

Date: Sunday, 29 March (9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.)

The debate focused on whether the United Nations was as relevant today as at the time of its founding in 1945. It concluded that the United Nations was needed more than ever today as the world faced a number of challenges that could not be met by individual States acting alone. On the other hand, the considerable record of accomplishment of the United Nations was not without blemish, owing in part to a lack of resources and political stalemate among Member States on specific issues. The United Nations as an organization could only deliver what Member States agreed to and were willing to support.

The United Nations could be credited for many things that helped Governments and people around the world in ways they did not always realize: the establishment of an international human rights framework, vital support for newly independent countries, whole new institutions of justice (international tribunals, the International Criminal Court), humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping operations that had helped save countless lives.

On the development front, the United Nations was responsible for finding common ground among countries on questions of global economic governance, including finance and trade, and for helping to put issues like climate change and sustainable development on the international agenda. The world conferences of the 1990s, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the post-2015 development agenda, which included a new set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), were good illustrations of United Nations leadership.

Unfortunately, the United Nations had not been as effective at preventing conflicts and the spread of armaments around the world. It was not equipped to deal with the rising threat of non-State terrorist groups. Most United Nations resolutions failed to be fully implemented, and there was often a disconnect between Member State decisions and the actual wishes of people on the ground. Social media

advances had changed the methods of discourse since 1955. Some wondered if this posed a problem of legitimacy: did the United Nations really speak for the peoples, as implied by its Charter? It needed to address the cost efficiency of its operations, including the Secretariat, and ensure it was nimble enough to innovate when needed.

Many participants highlighted Security Council reform as a litmus test of United Nations efficiency and leadership. The veto power of a few members of the Council was undemocratic. Membership in the Council should be expanded to better reflect the expansion in General Assembly membership over the years. Other participants suggested that the Council had to respect the General Assembly's authority and avoid dealing with issues that were not clearly within its mandate.

At the end of the day, making the United Nations more relevant would require closer partnership with the world of parliaments. National Governments had two branches — the executive and the legislative — yet the "States" of the United Nations were represented by the executive branch only. While there was clearly a benefit to having each Member speak with only one voice (the Permanent Representative, a minister or the head of State), it was becoming urgent for that voice to include the views of parliamentarians. Parliamentarians, for their part, had a key role to play in holding Governments to account for their decisions at the United Nations. That was exactly what the partnership between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was all about.

Sitting 2: Review of the field missions to examine interaction between United Nations country teams and national parliaments

Moderator: Mr. D. Dawson, Canada

Discussants: Ms. S. Lyimo, United Republic of Tanzania; Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, Ghana; Ms. S. Beavers, Policy Adviser, Inclusive Political Processes Team, United Nations Development Programme

Date: Tuesday, 31 March (9 to 10.45 a.m.)

The sitting examined changes in the relationship between national parliaments and United Nations country teams over the years and provided guidance as to how that relationship could be strengthened further. Twenty years earlier, it would have been unthinkable for the United Nations to work with national parliaments instead of with the Government alone. As the role of parliaments in national development gained recognition, it had become common for country teams to reach out to parliament or for parliament to seek assistance from the United Nations.

IPU field missions in a number of countries had highlighted various aspects of the United Nations-parliament relationship. The most important was that the United Nations looked at parliaments from two perspectives: as recipients of assistance (capacity-building) and as development partners providing input for key processes such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, a unique operational plan prepared for each country in which a country team was present.

The balance between those two perspectives varied from country to country. However, it was a safe assumption that it was easier for a country team to relate to

parliament as a recipient of assistance than as a partner in development planning, which tended to be a function of the parliament's willingness to engage, but also of the Government's willingness to bring parliamentarians into discussions with the United Nations. Regardless, one objective of cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU should be to ensure that, wherever feasible, parliaments were consistently included in round tables and structured discussions with the Government.

Participants expressed strong appreciation for the field presence of the United Nations. United Nations assistance had made a real difference to parliaments, empowering members and staff alike with technical knowledge and policy advice. As a result, many parliaments reported feeling much better equipped today to hold their Governments to account. The discussion included examples of how United Nations teams had provided hands-on assistance and seminars to bolster the capacity of parliamentarians, particularly women, and increase their confidence as policymakers. Examples were given from the following countries: Cameroon, Ghana, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Myanmar, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam.

In an effort to become more effective development partners, many United Nations country teams were working to put their own house in order, primarily by merging the agencies making up the team into a single programme of work, a single budget and a single office. Called "One United Nations", that exercise was having good results.

Sitting 3: Assessment of parliaments' institutional capacities to mainstream the new sustainable development goals

Moderator: Mr. A. Motter, Senior Adviser, IPU

Discussants: Ms. Claudia Roth, Germany; Ms. Evita Nursanty, Indonesia; Ms. Laura Rojas, Mexico

Date: Tuesday, 31 March (10.45 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.)

The sitting considered the question of whether parliaments were sufficiently equipped to mainstream the SDGs and the options that existed to make that process as effective as possible. Because each of the SDGs would apply to all countries to one degree or another, all parliaments must be prepared to support their implementation through the legislative and budget processes. The challenge for parliaments was to find a coherent and synergistic way to advance all the SDGs, overcoming the traditional silo approach of committee structure.

As the experience of the parliaments of Germany, Indonesia and Mexico had illustrated, a most effective way to institutionalize the SDGs was for parliament to set up a dedicated informal body, a working group, advisory council or task force. To be effective, that body would need to be composed of members of the substantive committees and be representative of all political parties. It would need to have sufficient authority and resources to commission expert reports, convene hearings, conduct field missions and provide input to the substantive committees.

An informal body would be less difficult to set up from a legal standpoint than a formal committee. Its function, in addition to helping to capture the inter-linkages between the various SDGs, would be to keep the SDGs high on the parliamentary agenda over the entire implementation period to 2030. It would be a means of helping parliaments assume ownership of the SDGs so that they were not seen as a "foreign" agenda cooked up by the United Nations in New York. Indeed, one of its functions would be to promote the SDGs among city councils and local communities, which were increasingly in the lead in sustainable development efforts.

Very clearly, the decision of whether to set up a new structure, and of what type, lay with each parliament alone. Some parliaments reported seeing no need for a dedicated structure for the SDGs. They considered that, in the final analysis, each SDG would fall within the purview of one or more of the standing committees that dealt with substantive policy issues (health, education, etc.). A dedicated body for the SDGs, formal or informal, might end up duplicating efforts. That being said, what mattered most now, when the SDGs had yet to be officially adopted, was that each parliament conducted a review of its own processes and structures, asking the question, "Are we fit for purpose?"

United Nations A/70/127

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2015

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Seventieth session
Item 93 of the preliminary list*
Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Note verbale dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has the honour to forward herewith to the General Assembly the text (in English and French) of the resolution entitled "Cyberwarfare: a serious threat to peace and global security", adopted by the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Hanoi on 31 March 2015 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations kindly requests the Office of the Secretary-General to circulate the present note verbale and its annex as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under item 93 of the preliminary list.

* A/70/50.

15-11167 (E) 130715

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Cyberwarfare: a serious threat to peace and global security

Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Hanoi, 1 April 2015)

The 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),

Mindful that information and communications technologies (ICTs) are means of inclusion and development and must not be used by States or non-State actors to violate international law, in particular the provisions and principles of the Charter of the United Nations relating to sovereignty, non-intervention, the sovereign equality of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the prohibition of the threat or use of force,

Acknowledging the work accomplished by the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security,

Considering that people's access to cyberspace involves, inter alia, extensive digital communication via satellites, optical networks and advanced computer programs, the systematic exchange of information, graphic, audiovisual and computerized data, intelligent tools and equipment, software, advanced operating systems and the possibility to use them for their own purposes,

Acknowledging that improper use of technology can have a harmful impact at national, regional and even global levels, and that internationally applicable legal regulatory authorities and instruments must therefore be established with regard to its purpose and use,

Convinced that, given the immense socioeconomic benefits that cyberspace brings to all citizens around the world, predictability, information security and stability in the cyberdomain are essential,

Having considered United Nations General Assembly resolutions 31/72 of 10 December 1976 (on a convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques), 55/63 of 4 December 2000 and 56/121 of 19 December 2001 (on combating the criminal misuse of information technologies), 69/28 of 2 December 2014 (on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security) and 57/239 (on the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity),

Recognizing the importance of international and regional agreements on cybercrime, transnational organized crime, the exchange of information and administrative assistance, including the 1977 Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, the 2001 Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime and its Additional Protocol (concerning the criminalization of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed

* The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed a reservation on the use of the term "cyberwarfare".

through computer systems), the 2010 Arab Convention on Combating Information Technology Offences and the 2009 Shanghai Cooperation Organization Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of International Information Security; *also recognizing* the importance of international treaties in preventing cyberwarfare,

Fully aware that some concepts, definitions and standards of cyberpolicy, especially in cyberwarfare and as they relate to international peace and security, are not commonly understood and are still being clarified at the national, regional and international levels, and that international consensus still does not exist in some areas,

Welcoming the progress made in international forums towards a common perception of what constitutes acceptable behaviour on the part of States in cyberspace, in particular by the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security and by other bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives,

Acknowledging that certain principles of public international law, including, in particular, those contained in the Charter of the United Nations, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, are relevant and applicable to cyberspace and are essential to maintaining peace and international stability and promoting an open, secure and peaceful ICT environment, accessible to women and men alike,

Considering that cyberspace is more than the Internet, that the use of hardware, software, data and information systems can have effects beyond networks and IT infrastructure and is considered as a tool of economic growth, and that inequalities, including gender inequalities, exist in the ICT environment,

Cognizant of the fact that different areas of cyberpolicy, while distinct, are inextricably linked and may have an impact on international peace and security aspects of cyberspace, and vice versa,

Considering that the covert and illegal use, by individuals, organizations and States, of the computer systems of foreign countries to attack third countries is a matter of grave concern because of its potential to spark international conflicts,

Also considering that cyberspace has the potential to be exploited as a new dimension of conflict as well as a new operating environment where many, if not most, cyberassets have both civilian and military applications,

Aware that cyberspace is not an isolated domain and that destabilizing activities within it may have serious effects on other areas of global social life, trigger other, traditional forms of insecurity or conflict, or start a new type of conflict, and *convinced* that there is a need for regional and international cooperation against threats resulting from the malicious use of ICTs,

Also convinced that States should encourage the private sector and civil society to play an appropriate role to improve the security and use of ICTs, including supply chain security for ICT products and services,

Aware that military ICT systems for the deployment and use of force are susceptible to acts of cyberwarfare that could lead to third parties intercepting and

deploying such systems to cause unauthorized, illegal and destructive use of force, *concerned* that fully autonomous military systems ("killer robots") are especially vulnerable to such unauthorized deployment, as there is no human validation of final targeting decisions, and *especially concerned* that the hacking of nuclear weapon command-and-control systems could result in the unauthorized launch and detonation of nuclear weapons and cause unparalleled catastrophes,

Noting that the use of ICTs has reshaped the national and international security environment and that such technologies can be used for malicious purposes and to violate human and civil rights; *also noting that*, in recent years, the risk of ICTs being used by State and non-State actors alike to commit crimes, including violence against women and girls, and to conduct disruptive activities has risen significantly,

Bearing in mind the negative impact that the unlawful use of ICTs could have on State infrastructure, national security and economic development, and *aware* that the only viable means of preventing and dealing with these new challenges, consolidating the positive aspects of ICTs, preventing their potential negative effects, promoting their peaceful and legitimate use and guaranteeing that scientific progress is aimed at maintaining peace and promoting the well-being and development of peoples is joint cooperation between States, which will also prevent cyberspace from becoming a theatre of military operations,

Considering that cyberwarfare may encompass, but is not necessarily limited to, operations against a computer or a computer system through a data stream as a means and method of warfare that is intended to gather intelligence for the purpose of economic, political or social destabilization or that can reasonably be expected to cause death, injury, destruction or damage during, but not exclusively in, armed conflicts,

Aware that cyberdefence and cybercrime control measures complement each other, and *noting*, in this connection, that the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention), the only international treaty on crimes committed via the Internet and other computer networks, is open for accession, including by third countries,

Noting that the military use of cyberspace and the impact of specific activities are not yet fully understood; *also noting* that many cyberactivities may have the effect of destabilizing the security situation, depending on their nature, range, potential consequences and other circumstances,

Concerned about the suggestion by military planners that nuclear deterrence be maintained as an option for dealing with the existential threat of a cyberattack,

Acknowledging that a lack of strategic State-to-State communications, prompt attribution of responsibility and a limited understanding of allies' and adversaries' priorities may lead to miscalculation, misconception and misunderstanding in the cyberdomain, and that it is therefore important to introduce confidence-building measures of a nature to improve transparency, predictability and cooperation between States,

Considering that the risk to international peace and security has increased with the development and spread of sophisticated malicious tools and techniques by States and non-State actors,

Rejecting States' use of cyberspace as a means of applying economic, restrictive or discriminatory measures against another State for the purpose of limiting access to information or services,

Condemning the use of ICTs in contravention of international law, the goals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and internationally recognized rules of coexistence between States,

Also condemning the use of ICTs by criminal or terrorist groups to communicate, collect information, recruit, organize, plan and coordinate attacks, promote their ideas and actions and solicit funding, and *mindful* that, in so doing, these groups often exploit the vulnerability of certain social groups, and *further condemning* the use of cyberspace to destabilize and threaten international peace and security,

Noting the need to work for the conclusion of an international Internet convention to prevent the use of the Internet by terrorists or terrorist organizations for illegal activities, in particular to raise funds, enlist members or publish ideas inciting people to violence and hatred,

Recalling that acts of sexual violence during times of war or conflict are considered to be war crimes, and *considering* that the broadcast of such acts using ICTs to intimidate, threaten or terrorize citizens, communities or countries and force them into submission therefore constitutes a crime of cyberwarfare,

Considering that there is a need to strike a balance between security control of cyberspace and respect for privacy, confidentiality, intellectual property and e-government and e commerce development priorities,

Also considering that there is a need to develop national, regional and international levels of practical confidence-building measures in the ICT field,

Condemning any intentional misuse of technology, including, but not limited to, State sponsored espionage,

1. *Recommends* that parliaments build their capacities to better understand the complex nature of national and international security in the cyberdomain and to take into account the interlinkages between different areas of cyberpolicy development;

2. *Encourages* parliaments to work with other branches of government, civil society and the private sector to develop a holistic understanding of cyberdependence, risks and challenges at the national level; *further encourages* Governments to reduce the negative effects of cyberdependence, especially with regard to e-government development and national security, and to promote the adoption of national cybersecurity strategies;

3. *Calls upon* all parliaments to review their countries' legal framework to examine how best to adapt it to potential threats, in terms of crime, terrorism and/or warfare, which might arise from the evolving nature of cyberspace;

4. *Also calls upon* parliaments to legislate to counter acts of sexual violence against women and girls during times of war and conflict, which constitute war crimes, and against the broadcasting of such acts using ICTs, which is a crime of cyberwarfare;

5. *Encourages* parliaments to be accountable by scrutinizing public finances with a view to ensuring that adequate resources are allocated to cybersecurity;

6. *Also encourages* parliaments to make use of all the oversight tools at their disposal to ensure that cyber-related activities are rigorously monitored, and to enact national laws, with due regard for their respective constitutions, that stipulate stiffer penalties for cyberattacks, using appropriate safeguards, governance mechanisms and existing structures so as to protect freedom of expression and not compromise the citizen's ability to use ICT tools;

7. *Recommends* that parliaments from States which have not yet done so request that their respective Governments expressly state that international law, including the law of armed conflict, must apply to cyberwarfare in order to ensure that limits are placed on the use of cyberoperations as a means and method of warfare, while noting that the exact manner of application is still a matter under international discussion;

8. *Encourages* parliaments to work with other branches of government and with civil society to develop a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy encompassing cyberdefence, capacity-building and action to combat cyberterrorism;

9. *Invites* parliaments to support the dissemination of cybersecurity information and best practices among all national stakeholders;

10. *Calls upon* all parliaments to ensure meaningful participation by all stakeholders, including the private sector, academics, the technical community, civil society and women's organizations and associations, in efforts aimed at addressing the cyberthreats related to the use of ICTs;

11. *Recommends* that parliaments from nuclear-weapon States call on their Governments to rescind launch-on-warning policies, stand down nuclear weapons from high operational readiness and extend the decision-making time for nuclear-weapon use in order to prevent unauthorized activation and deployment of nuclear-weapon systems through cyberattacks, pursuant to the negotiation of agreements to prohibit the use of nuclear weapons and achieve their elimination;

12. *Calls upon* all parliaments to ensure that their national laws and regulations do not condone the criminal use of cybertechnology for the purpose of fomenting conflict between States or provide the perpetrators with immunity and a safe haven;

13. *Encourages* national parliaments to promote close cooperation and partnership between the public and private sectors, so as to improve the effectiveness of cybersecurity and cyberdefence strategies at the national level;

14. *Recommends* the application of a strategic information plan involving the education sector, organized communities and citizen participation, for the purpose of heightening awareness of the benefits and usefulness of being active in cyberspace and the harmful effects that can be generated from its misuse;

15. *Also recommends* that States comply with international law and the Charter of the United Nations when using ICTs and that, at the legislative and executive levels, consideration be given to cooperative measures likely to enhance peace and international stability and security and lead to a common understanding

of the application of the relevant international law and derived standards, rules and principles underpinning the responsible conduct of States;

16. *Encourages* parliaments to support the widest possible accession to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention) as a means of strengthening national legislation and enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation against cybercrime;

17. *Recommends* that parliaments press for the formulation and adoption at the regional and international levels of appropriate regulations and oversight guaranteeing that the use of cyberspace is fully compatible with international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and internationally recognized rules of coexistence, together with practical confidence-building measures to help increase transparency, predictability and cooperation and reduce misconceptions, thus diminishing the risk of conflict using the cyberdomain;

18. *Invites* parliaments to support the use of aid instruments and resources for capacity-building to prevent and counter cyberthreats;

19. *Urges* the IPU, together with relevant international organizations, to lend support to inter-parliamentary cooperation with a view to promoting international agreements guaranteeing better use of ICTs by countries and appropriate and secure use of cyberspace, to sharing good practices on confidence-building measures that are conducive to peace and international stability and security in that they reduce the security risks inherent in the use of ICTs, and to developing collaborative mechanisms;

20. *Encourages* parliaments to play a positive role in creating a secure environment in support of the peaceful use of cyberspace and ensuring that freedom of expression and information exchange are appropriately reconciled with public safety and security concerns;

21. *Also encourages* parliaments to work with their Governments on establishing international agreements to prevent cyberwarfare, apply the body of international peace and security law to cyberspace, establish global standards and ensure that national and international responses to cyberattacks are consistent with such agreements and standards;

22. *Further encourages* international cooperation to provide developing countries with technical assistance and capacity-building in terms of prevention, investigation and the prosecution and punishment of offenders, and to enhance network security in relation to cyberwarfare;

23. *Calls on* the IPU to urge the United Nations to adopt a resolution prohibiting illegal monitoring and cyberattacks on critical infrastructure such as water, electricity and hospital networks;

24. *Encourages* the United Nations to enhance cybersecurity by establishing a global registry of cyberattacks;

25. *Recommends* that the legal instruments, agreements and cooperation agreements, inter alia, relating to cyberspace, cybersecurity, technology and telecommunications be reviewed and updated;

26. *Suggests* that the IPU, acting on the basis of this resolution, propose that the General Assembly of the United Nations convene a conference on the prevention of cyberwarfare with a view to adopting a unified position on the issues involved and drafting an international convention on the prevention of cyberwarfare.

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General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Items 73 and 86 of the preliminary list*

Promotion and protection of human rights

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Note verbale dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has the honour to forward herewith to the General Assembly the text (in English and French) of the resolution entitled "International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights", adopted by the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Hanoi on 31 March 2015 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations kindly requests the Office of the Secretary-General to circulate the present note verbale and its annex as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under items 73 and 86 of the preliminary list.

* A/70/50.

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Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights

Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Hanoi, 1 April 2015)

The 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),

Recalling the relevant provisions of previous resolutions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations General Assembly with regard to international law, human rights, national sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, as well as the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the relevant international human rights instruments, all of which are of paramount importance to the promotion of the rule of law among nations,

Reaffirming that the sovereign equality of States is the basis for international cooperation and an essential factor of stability,

Considering that international law defines the legal responsibilities of States in the conduct of their international relations and establishes the obligations of each State towards all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction,

Mindful of the fundamental importance of the rule of law for political dialogue and cooperation among all States, and *underlining* that the rule of law applies to all States equally,

Aware that the rule of law, peace and security, human rights and sustainable development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming the universal, indivisible, interdependent, indissociable and complementary nature of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the commitment made by all States to respect, promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals in their territory and falling within their competence in a fair and equal manner, including refugees and internally displaced persons, and *underscoring* that this is fully compatible with the principles of State sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Emphasizing the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind on the basis of race, ethnicity, colour, sex, language or religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

* The delegations of Cuba, India and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed reservations. The delegation of the Sudan expressed reservations specifically regarding operative paragraph 18 and, on account of that, opposed the entire resolution.

Stressing the importance of the existing international legal framework for women's rights and gender equality, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and existing United Nations Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security (resolution 1325 and others),

Reaffirming that, while national and regional particularities and historical, cultural and religious contexts must be borne in mind, all States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, have the duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that the respect, promotion and safeguarding of human rights is a matter of concern for all members of the international community,

Underscoring the central role played by the United Nations Human Rights Council as a means of monitoring State policy for the promotion and protection of fundamental rights,

Noting that, by ratifying international human rights law instruments, States accept the monitoring mechanisms foreseen in the instruments,

Recalling the resolution adopted by the 128th Assembly of the IPU (Quito, 2013) on "Enforcing the responsibility to protect: the role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives", in particular operative paragraph 6 encouraging parliaments "to monitor the executive's submission of country reports as required by the relevant treaty bodies, particularly those relating to human rights, [and] to become more involved with regional and international human rights mechanisms",

Stressing that an independent judiciary, representative, accountable and inclusive institutions, an accountable administration, active civil society and independent and responsible media are important components of the rule of law at the national and international levels and necessary to guarantee democracy, as well as respect for and the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Recalling the permanent responsibility of each individual State to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Mindful that justice, particularly transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies, is a prerequisite for achieving sustainable peace, and *reiterating* that States bear primary responsibility for investigating and prosecuting international crimes,

Stressing that women are the main victims of situations of crisis and conflict, and that armed conflicts, terrorist acts and drug trafficking heighten women's vulnerability and place them at greater risk of gender-based violence and abuse in the form of rape, kidnapping, forced and early marriage, exploitation and sexual slavery,

Emphasizing that, in such situations, specific groups of women, such as young girls, refugees and internally displaced women, are even more at risk and in greater need of protection,

Recalling the responsibility of occupying States to respect, promote and safeguard the human rights of persons living in the occupied territories,

Considering that the application of a "double standard" in statements on or reactions to violations of international human rights law, or their politicization, will ultimately undermine the very validity of that law,

Aware of the seriousness of the threats posed to international human rights law by terrorist movements attempting to supersede the State by taking military action to seize territory and systematically murdering civilians,

Desirous of seeing positive developments in the system of international cooperation and the settlement of international disputes through dialogue and other peaceful means, within the framework of the international collective security system,

Considering that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the future sustainable development goals could greatly contribute to such developments,

1. *Reaffirms* international law as the standard of conduct for relations between States;

2. *Reaffirms* also its commitment to a democratic and equitable international order based on the rule of law, and *underlines* the essential role of parliaments in upholding the rule of law at the national level through their legislative and oversight functions;

3. *Reiterates* the principles of the sovereign equality of States, State sovereignty, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence;

4. *Reiterates also* the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States as a means of guaranteeing respect for human rights and democracy, and *encourages* States to respect and promote that principle;

5. *Stresses* that States have the right to choose, without external interference, their political, economic and social systems and to organize internally in the way they deem appropriate, with due regard for international law;

6. *Urges* States to consider ratifying the core international human rights treaties, in accordance with their constitutional process, and to fulfil their treaty obligations to respect, promote and safeguard human rights without discrimination;

7. *Underscores* the importance of ensuring that women, on the basis of gender equality, and minorities fully enjoy the benefits of the rule of law, and *restates* its determination to uphold their equal rights and ensure their full and equal participation, including in institutions of governance and the judicial system;

8. *Underscores* also the right of persons with disabilities to fully enjoy their human rights, inter alia, the right to participate in all aspects of life, including politics and public affairs;

9. *Urges* States to adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation and the interpretation, in good faith, of their obligations under international human rights law, and *calls on* parliaments to play an active role in overseeing the implementation of those obligations;

10. *Rejects* any unilateral interpretation and application of international human rights law that is not in conformity with international law, including in national legislation, and *reiterates* that human rights may not be interpreted as

implying for any State, group or person the right to engage in any activity or perform any act aimed at striking down any of the rights or freedoms recognized by international human rights law or at limiting them to a greater extent than is provided for in the relevant provisions of that law;

11. *Expresses* support for the United Nations Human Rights Council and the existing independent treaty-based mechanisms that monitor States' compliance with international human rights law, *calls for* such mechanisms to be further strengthened, and *calls on* parliaments to participate actively in these monitoring mechanisms;

12. *Encourages* parliaments to strengthen national systems for the respect, promotion and safeguarding of human rights, including by supporting the development of independent and effective national human rights institutions, in accordance with the 1993 Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), and ensuring equal and effective protection for all, without discrimination based on religious belief, gender, age, sexual orientation, language, ethnic origin or other status;

13. *Appeals* to States to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and to resolve disputes by peaceful means, in such a manner that international peace and security, justice, human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected and in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

14. *Strongly urges* States, in the conduct of their foreign relations, to ensure that their economic, financial and trade measures are in compliance with international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

15. *Strongly supports* the provision of humanitarian and economic aid by the international community in cases of disaster, crisis or armed conflict;

16. *Reiterates* that the United Nations Security Council bears primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations;

17. *Calls on* States to strengthen the system of collective and individual security and to bring about greater democratization of the international community, including through reform of the United Nations Security Council to ensure greater legitimacy of its decisions, and reform of the United Nations in general, particularly the machinery for dealing with major humanitarian disasters;

18. *Invites* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Rome Statute and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court, and *calls on* States to strengthen their national legal systems and to cooperate fully with the Court, so as to ensure that international crimes are properly investigated and prosecuted;

19. *Expresses* its full support for a new post-2015 development agenda that ensures a rights-based approach encompassing all human rights, addresses issues of justice, equality and equity, good governance, democracy and the rule of law, and promotes peaceful societies and freedom from violence;

20. *Appeals* for greater cooperation between parliaments, the IPU and the United Nations in the respect, promotion and safeguarding of human rights and the development of the rule of law at the national and international level; *strongly supports* United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/272 on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which recommends that a new IPU-United Nations cooperation agreement be drawn up, so as to reflect progress and developments over past years and place the institutional relationship between the two organizations on a strong footing;

21. *Proposes* that a committee be set up within the IPU to prepare a declaration based on this resolution as a way of further contributing to the enhancement of peace and international security.

United Nations A/70/129

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Items 20 and 26 of the preliminary list*

Sustainable development

Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

Note verbale dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has the honour to forward herewith to the General Assembly the text (in English and French) of the resolution entitled "Shaping a new system of water governance: promoting parliamentary action on water and sanitation", adopted by the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Hanoi on 31 March 2015 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations kindly requests the Office of the Secretary-General to circulate the present note verbale and its annex as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under items 20 and 26 of the preliminary list.

* A/70/50.

15-11162 (E) 150715

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Shaping a new system of water governance: Promoting parliamentary action on water and sanitation

Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Hanoi, 1 April 2015)

The 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),

Referring to the resolutions adopted by the 100th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Moscow, September 1998) and the 130th Assembly of the IPU (Geneva, March 2014), which acknowledged that freshwater resources are essential to basic human needs, health, food production and the preservation of ecosystems, and highlighted the need to improve water management in order to prevent and mitigate high disaster risks, strengthen resilience and ultimately contribute to sustainable development, respectively,

Recalling the IPU regional seminar for the parliaments of the Arab States, "Global capacity-building initiative for parliaments on sustainable development", which was held in Beirut on 29 and 30 November 2005,

Having considered United Nations General Assembly resolutions 64/292 of 28 July 2010 and 68/157 of 18 December 2013, and Human Rights Council resolution 27/7 of September 2014, in which the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is recognized as a human right essential for the full enjoyment of life,

Bearing in mind the entry into force of the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses and the global opening of the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes,

Deeply concerned by the increased pressure being exerted on water resources by factors such as population growth, climate change, rapid urbanization, the growing needs of modern agriculture, industrialization, natural disasters, desertification, deforestation, growing energy demand and lack of effective governance,

Equally concerned by the fact that water scarcity is already affecting one in three people on every continent and that, in the absence of effective management, by 2025 approximately two thirds of the world's population, in particular women and children, will be under water stress and 1.8 billion people will face absolute water scarcity,

Also deeply concerned at the fact that 748 million people lack access to an improved drinking water source, that 2.5 billion people still lack access to improved sanitation and that 1 billion people still practise open defecation,

* The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed a reservation on the use of the term "water governance".

Aware that global numbers/statistics mask profound and persistent disparities between and within countries, and that targeted measures must be adopted to progressively eliminate such inequalities, with a specific focus on gender equality,

Mindful that water pollution, water overuse, lack of cooperation in respect of national and international river basins and aquifers, and the realization of the human right to water and sanitation are interconnected issues,

Bearing in mind that water governance can be a key element in maintaining peace between States and that good governance can promote cooperation and avoid water-related conflicts,

Aware that international law and national legal systems relating to the management of water resources tend to be fragmented and poorly implemented in practice,

Recognizing that men and women contribute differently and often unequally to household and community water management, in particular in developing countries and in rural areas, where it is the women and girls who fetch the family's water supply, frequently covering long distances in uncertain security conditions in which they are at greater risk of violence,

Convinced that States should increasingly pursue integrated water resources management by taking into account the water-energy-ecosystem-food security nexus, improving wastewater treatment and preventing and reducing surface and groundwater pollution,

Recalling that integrated water resources management strategies are based on the principles set out in the Dublin Statement on Water and Sustainable Development and incorporated into Agenda 21 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992,

Stressing the urgent and absolute need to conserve and sustainably manage the quality and quantity of water resources for present and future generations,

Also stressing that effective management and multilevel good governance of water resources are indispensable preconditions for achieving the human right to water and sanitation,

Recalling the key role parliamentarians play in establishing good water governance systems that are conducive to the realization of the human right to water and sanitation, in respect of which women should be active participants in the decision-making process and able to express their needs and opinions,

Recognizing that parliamentarians have a weighty responsibility to develop national legal frameworks in order to realize a water-secure world for all present and future generations,

1. *Calls on* national parliaments to advocate a dedicated comprehensive water and sanitation goal in the post-2015 development agenda, so as to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, said goal to include concrete actions and, in particular, the development of an efficient monitoring system with global indicators;

2. *Also calls on* national parliaments to enact legislation for the appropriate implementation of international treaties, customary law and resolutions related to

water management and to the human right to water and sanitation, to organize appropriate human resources training and further education so as to enhance understanding of these instruments and to encourage awareness-raising campaigns for citizens with a view to promoting responsible use of water;

3. *Exhorts* national parliaments to ensure that women take part in all local, national and international water governance decision-making bodies;

4. *Urges* national parliaments to set aside adequate budget allocations for multilevel and efficient governance and to establish legislative and regulatory frameworks encouraging dialogue and partnerships between the public and private sectors in order to stimulate investment in the water sector, with a view to establishing a water-secure world for all present and future generations and to securing water affordability, accessibility and safety for all;

5. *Also urges* national parliaments to approve comprehensive and integrated laws, so as to encourage conservation, spur innovation and ensure sustainable use of water and energy in their respective countries;

6. *Further urges* national parliaments to promote water security by developing and implementing, within their jurisdiction, integrated water resources management plans involving interministerial cooperation and stakeholder participation in order to balance competing human needs while giving priority to water for personal and domestic use for all, without discrimination and with a special focus on gender equality and the most vulnerable sectors of society;

7. *Encourages* States sharing water resources to cooperate on matters relating to international watercourses and to consider joining international legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation mentioned in the fourth preambular paragraph above;

8. *Calls upon* States and international organizations to use international assistance and cooperation to provide financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfers, in particular to developing countries, in order to scale up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all;

9. *Encourages* national parliaments to urge their governments to honour the commitments their countries have made in regard to the protection and conservation of freshwater sources;

10. *Calls on* parliamentarians to support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management;

11. *Calls on* States, especially developed countries, to promote cooperation and support developing country water management efforts, including in respect of water planning and effective and sustainable water protection and use for the purpose of sustainable development;

12. *Requests* the IPU to draft a compilation of best legal and policy practices related to human rights-based water management, in order to support the work of parliamentarians involved in water-related issues;

13. *Also requests* the IPU to facilitate action by its Member Parliaments to follow up on the recommendations made in this resolution in their respective countries and regions.

United Nations A/70/130

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Items 29 and 109 of the preliminary list*

Advancement of women

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Note verbale dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has the honour to forward herewith to the General Assembly the text (in English and French) of the resolution entitled "The role of parliaments in combating all terrorist acts perpetrated by organizations such as Daesh and Boko Haram against innocent civilians, in particular women and girls", adopted by the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Hanoi on 31 March 2015 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations kindly requests the Office of the Secretary-General to circulate the present note verbale and its annex as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under items 29 and 109 of the preliminary list.

* A/70/50.

15-11160 (E) 090715

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

The role of parliaments in combating all terrorist acts perpetrated by organizations such as Daesh and Boko Haram against innocent civilians, in particular women and girls

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Hanoi, 31 March 2015)

The 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),

Considering that all forms and manifestations of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of the motivation and the perpetrators and no matter where they are committed,

Reaffirming that terrorism is not to be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization, or with any ethnic group,

Noting that those who commit, order, finance or support terrorist acts must be brought to justice,

Underscoring that such acts of violence target civilians, in particular women, children and the elderly,

Expressing grave concern at the continued threat that terrorism poses to international peace and security,

Bearing in mind that the self-proclaimed Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (also known as Daesh) has accepted Boko Haram's pledge of allegiance,

Considering the scope and spread of the abuses committed by Boko Haram and ISIL, which is steadily expanding into new territory in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic,

Bearing in mind that Nigeria, Chad, Niger, Cameroon and Benin decided to mobilize 8,700 men in early February to fight Boko Haram,

Considering that ISIL's ideology has inspired terrorist attacks in other parts of the world, for example Brussels, Paris, Sydney and, most recently, Tunis, and that those attacks are clearly aimed at undermining democracy and hampering intercultural dialogue and exchange by sowing terror,

Gravely concerned by the systematic looting and cultural destruction wrought by ISIL and deplored by UNESCO, which refers to "cultural cleansing",

Noting that all anti-terrorist measures must comply with international law, notably human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law,

Recalling all relevant United Nations resolutions, notably those adopted by the Security Council, on terrorism and organized transborder crime, and condemning all forms of financing of terrorism,

Recalling relevant IPU resolutions on terrorism, including the declaration adopted by the Ninth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament,

1. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* all inhuman and terrorist acts and the steady escalation in violence;

2. *Requests* parliaments to use legislative channels to contribute to the implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions;

3. *Invites* all parliaments vigorously and unanimously to condemn the acts committed by ISIL and Boko Haram;

4. *Calls* for the development of avenues of cooperation between State security and intelligence agencies in order to facilitate the exchange of information between States;

5. *Invites* parliaments to pressure their respective Governments to prosecute any person or organization helping to finance ISIL or Boko Haram, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions 2161 (2014) and 2170 (2014);

6. *Requests* that any person having helped to commit war crimes or crimes against humanity in the name of those organizations be brought to justice;

7. *Also requests* that particular attention be paid to women and children in countries in which terrorist organizations like ISIL and Boko Haram are active;

8. *Condemns* the deliberate destruction and systematic looting of cultural property and asks that those responsible be held accountable and brought to justice;

9. *Calls on* parliaments to draw up a common strategy on citizens joining the ranks of such organizations and proposes that techniques for exchanging information between States be developed for that purpose;

10. *Also calls on* parliaments to adopt a common strategy to counter the remote recruitment of combatants and propaganda on the Internet, especially on social networks;

11. *Urges* the competent United Nations bodies to adopt the emergency measures needed to support the efforts being made on the ground by the countries of the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States, to fight Boko Haram;

12. *Endorses* the initiatives taken by the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the African Union and the international community to find a solution to the problem, notably the establishment of the Multinational Joint Task Force;

13. *Reaffirms* the significance of dialogue among the Governments and parliaments of all countries involved in the fight against terrorism.

United Nations A/70/131

General Assembly

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Items 20 and 125 of the preliminary list*

Sustainable development

Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Note verbale dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has the honour to forward herewith to the General Assembly the text (in English and French) of the Hanoi Declaration, adopted by the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Hanoi on 31 March 2015 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations kindly requests the Office of the Secretary-General to circulate the present note verbale and its annex as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under items 20 and 125 of the preliminary list.

* A/70/50.

15-11158 (E) 090715

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Hanoi Declaration

The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action

Endorsed by the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Hanoi, 1 April 2015)

We, parliamentarians from over 130 countries and 23 international and regional parliamentary organizations, gathered in Hanoi, Viet Nam, reviewed the emerging sustainable development goals and considered our role in attaining them.

This is our declaration.

Despite global advances in technology, health, knowledge and material wealth, longstanding economic and social disparities are increasing, to the detriment of the whole planet, with progress continuing to elude many the world over.

This situation — exacerbated by the urgent threat of climate change and growing waves of social unrest, political instability and conflict within or between countries — is coming to a head. As we saw with the Millennium Development Goals, international commitments can only be met with strong political will, leadership and national ownership. As parliamentarians, we have a moral obligation to act.

The adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and its sustainable development goals in September 2015 will afford a unique opportunity to meet global challenges, using a universal, integrated approach that will apply to all countries and link poverty eradication to sustainable development.

Vision

At this critical moment, we, the parliamentarians of the world, reaffirm our vision for people-centred sustainable development based on the realization of all human rights, to eradicate poverty in all its forms and eliminate inequalities, thus empowering all individuals to exercise their full potential. This requires conditions of peace and security, in full observance of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Poverty eradication and sustainable development are a shared commitment for us all, and we should all strive for a balanced and more equitable distribution of resources. Our current production and consumption patterns are clearly unsustainable, and all countries — developed and developing alike — need to work together, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. That

is the only way we can advance towards a common model of inclusive and sustainable growth.

A people-centred approach requires environmental justice: the planet and all its ecosystems must be treated as common assets for the whole of humanity to enjoy now and in the future. Human well-being must be the driver of all policies for sustainable development, and progress must be measured in terms that go well beyond gross domestic product. People are more than taxpayers and consumers; they are citizens endowed with rights and responsibilities towards each other. We must invest in them — their health, nutrition, education and skills — as our most important resource.

All government institutions must be representative and accessible to all. Cultural differences should be respected and home-grown approaches to sustainable development employed. All people, regardless of gender, race, culture, religion and health status, must be empowered to work cooperatively for peace and the common good.

Commitment

Acknowledging that the sustainable development goals will be the result of a delicate compromise, we look forward to this transformational framework that will inspire policymaking in all countries.

We are pleased that our efforts to advocate for the inclusion of goals on healthy lives and well-being, gender equality and women's empowerment, reducing inequalities within and between countries, as well as on governance, have borne fruit. We appreciate the broadened focus on health, which will provide an opportunity to end the AIDS epidemic while tackling emerging challenges such as non-communicable diseases.

We welcome the new goal calling for urgent action against climate change and we appreciate the broad-based goal on the means of implementation — finance, trade, technology, capacity-building and systemic reforms — that must be mobilized in support of the new framework. This goal should inject new energy into the current global partnership for development.

We commit to doing our utmost to strengthen national ownership of the goals, particularly by making them known to our constituents. People must understand how the goals are relevant to their lives. As representatives of the people, we are responsible for ensuring that each and every voice is heard in the political process without discrimination and irrespective of social status.

We commit to translating the goals into enforceable domestic laws and regulations, including through the critical budget process. Each country must do its part to ensure that all the goals are met.

Action

As parliamentarians, we must support efforts to reach the new goals in ways that respect each country's national specificities. Our responsibility is clear: to hold Governments accountable for the goals they have subscribed to, and to make sure that enabling laws are passed and budgets adopted.

Our first order of business must be to examine our institutions and decision-making processes to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

As representatives of the people, our concern is to defend the public interest and pursue the common good above all else. We must prevent individual interests from exercising excessive influence in our deliberations. We must focus on building consensus around practical solutions.

We will seek to overcome the silo mentality within our own parliaments and national administrations to reflect the intersectoral nature of the goals. To this end, we will do our utmost to institutionalize the goals in every parliament, with sufficient time for discussion and monitoring. Parliamentary committees and processes must pursue all goals coherently.

We will help build national ownership of the goals by seeing to it that each of our countries has a sustainable development plan, crafted in an inclusive and participatory manner, including through public hearings with civil society, and in line with the international human rights framework.

We pledge to make laws and budgetary provisions in line with the national sustainable development plan, clearly identifying the goals and targets that apply and means of funding. Governments should report annually to parliaments on the implementation of the national plan. Parliaments should garner regular feedback from their constituents to help assess progress on the ground, where it matters most.

We further pledge to measure progress not only in terms of national averages, but most importantly by looking at how the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our societies have fared. No one should be left behind. Strong national capacities for data collection and disaggregation, including by gender, age, minority group and health status, will be crucial.

Recognizing our role in mobilizing the means to attain the goals, including through funding from private and public sources, at both the national and international levels, we will support the implementation of all international commitments. In particular, we will work to increase domestic resources, including by combating illicit financial flows. We will improve the quality and quantity of aid, set out an orderly sovereign debt restructuring mechanism, strengthen the environment for private sector investments, including through public-private partnerships, and reform the global financial, monetary and trade regime in ways that directly support sustainable development.

Lastly, we pledge to support accountability for meeting the goals at the global level. We will seek to join our national delegations to meetings of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, where global progress reports will be discussed. We will contribute to the national reviews submitted to the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development. Wherever feasible, we will seek to engage with United Nations field operations in our countries to share information and explore all avenues for cooperation to advance our national plans.

We ask that the central messages of this Declaration and of its predecessor, the Quito Communiqué, be reflected in the outcome of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament later this year, which will in turn provide input to the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

We urge Governments to conduct negotiations keeping in mind the real needs and expectations of citizens and addressing the critical linkages between sustainable development, democratic governance and human rights. The post-2015 United Nations declaration should commit to building strong public institutions, including parliaments, with the ability and capacity to ensure accountability for results. We encourage the drafters of the declaration to acknowledge the critical role and responsibility of parliaments — and of the Inter-Parliamentary Union as their world organization — in implementing the new development agenda and in monitoring progress.

Moreover, we stress that convergence between the outcomes of this year's negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, financing for development, climate change and disaster risk reduction is essential to facilitate implementation at the national level.

We are profoundly grateful to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, our world organization, for raising our awareness of the sustainable development goals and for making our voices heard at the United Nations. We will continue to look to the Inter-Parliamentary Union for support in our efforts to attain the goals.

Together, we will succeed.